

# Monthly Morbidity Report

August 2003

## Highlights

Two Utah residents tested positive for [West Nile Virus](#) infections. Upon further investigation, it was determined that both cases were not acquired in Utah, but by travel to other states with documented West Nile Virus activity. However, West Nile Virus was detected in Utah for the first time in mosquitoes, chickens, and horses.

A Utah County resident tested positive for the bacterium [Francisella tularensis](#), a potential bioterrorism agent, at the state lab this month. An epidemiologic investigation revealed that the exposure to the pathogen was likely a natural occurrence. The patient reported exposure to biting flies while boating before the illness.

Three bats tested positive for [rabies](#) this month. The first bat was found in a swimming pool in Utah County, but there were no known human or animal exposures to the rabid animal. The second bat was submitted by Davis County. An unvaccinated puppy was exposed to the bat and Davis County Animal Control followed up with the pet owner. The third rabid bat was from Uintah County. No human or animal exposures were reported. A total of 9 bats have tested positive for rabies in 2003 in the following counties: Davis (2), Salt Lake (3), Uintah (2), Utah (1), Washington (1).

The Office of Epidemiology investigated numerous suspect [pertussis](#) cases. Epidemiologists have consulted with physicians and local health departments regarding the cases and contacts. The epidemiologists have also coordinated consulting with the patients' co-workers, including educating them about preventive drug treatment and disease transmission. None of the co-workers experienced symptoms characteristic of the disease.

Thirty-two confirmed cases of [salmonellosis](#) were reported to the Office of Epidemiology this month, compared to 21 reported in July. This was to be expected as *Salmonella* infections often display seasonality with peak reporting in August. The three most-frequently reported serotypes reported were *S. typhimurium*, *S. enteritidis*, and *S. newport*.

An Idaho local health department contacted the Office of Epidemiology regarding several cases of gastroenteritis in an extended family. The family had attended a reunion in the Bear River Health District. At least 13 of the attendees were Utah residents. No causative organism was identified. However, water samples, derived from the site of the reunion, were highly contaminated with fecal coliform. The business was temporarily shut down until the water system was cleaned and until the water was properly treated.

The total number of confirmed\* cases for 20 selected diseases, reported by Utah [health districts](#), is provided below ([Table 1](#) and [Figure 1](#)). Click on the disease names in Table 1 to access their corresponding fact sheets. Click [here](#) for sexually-transmitted disease epidemiologic data. Click [here](#) for AIDS/HIV epidemiological data.

\* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.

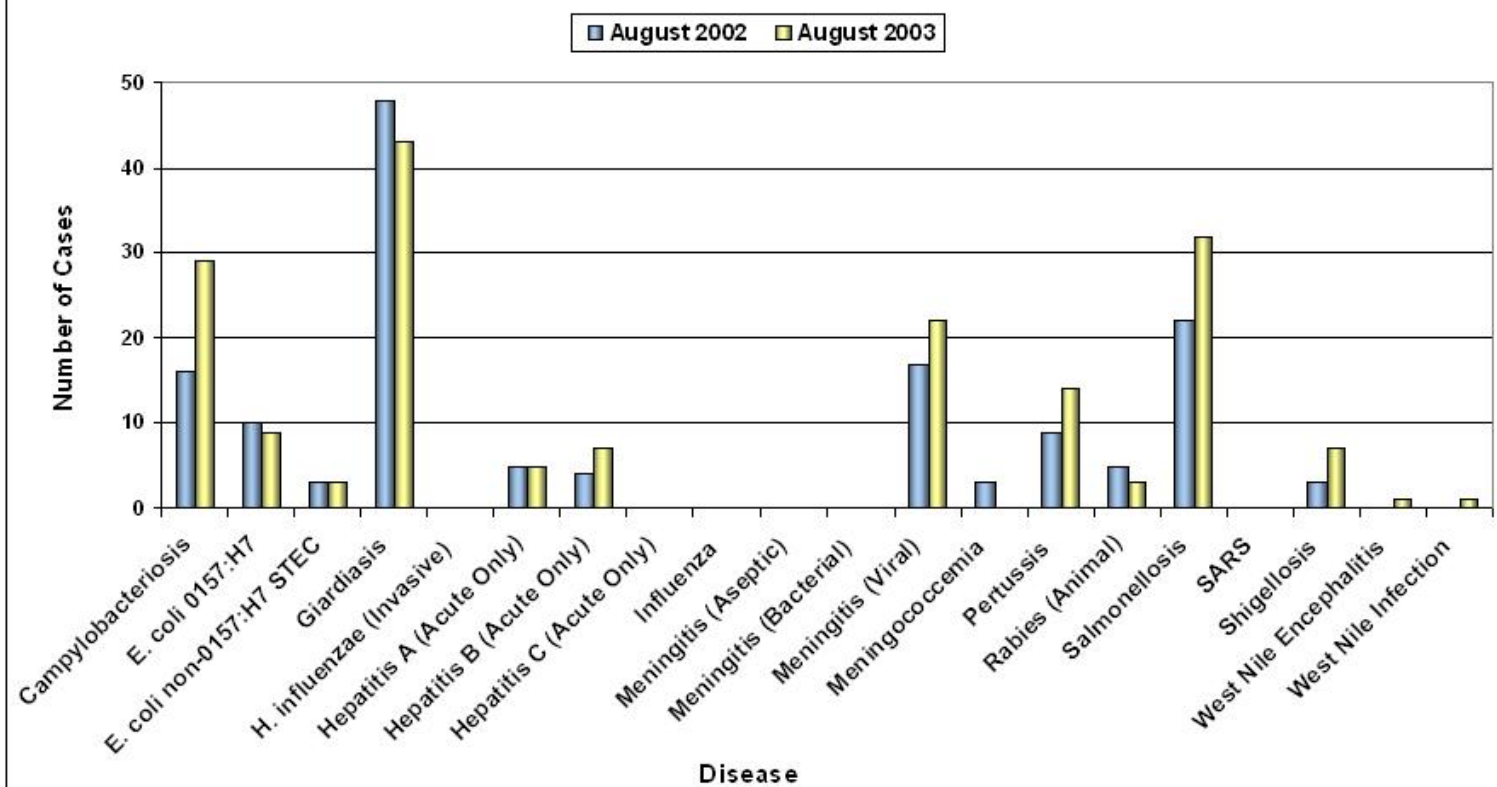
Updated: 11/07/03 (DJ)

**Table 1. Cumulative Number of Confirmed\* Diseases, by Health District, Reported in Utah, August 2003.**

Health District	Campylobacteriosis	<i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7	<i>E. coli</i> non-0157:H7 STEC	Giardiasis	<i>H. influenzae</i> (Invasive)	Hepatitis A (Acute Only)	Hepatitis B (Acute Only)	Hepatitis C (Acute Only)	Influenza	Meningitis (Aseptic)	Meningitis (Bacterial)	Meningitis (Viral)	Meningococemia	Pertussis	Rabies (Animal)	Salmonellosis	SARS	Shigellosis	West Nile Encephalitis	West Nile Infection
Bear River	10											1				1				
Central		1		1												5		1		
Davis	3	2	1									2		1	1	3				
Salt Lake	8	2	2	17		3	5					7		11		14		3		1
Southeast												1								
Southwest				8								1				3				
Summit				2														1		
Tooele	1			1												1		1		
Tricounty															1					
Utah county	5	2		10		2						5		1	1	3				
Wasatch				1										1						
Weber-Morgan	2	2		3			2					5				2		1	1	
August 2003	29	9	3	43	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	22	0	14	3	32	0	7	1	1
August 2002	16	10	3	48	0	5	4	0	0	0	0	17	3	9	5	22	0	3	0	0
2003 To Date	158	34	18	216	10	23	36	0	346	1	0	54	0	45	9	137	6	33	1	1
2002 To Date	162	41	16	184	15	30	29	4	384	0	0	43	4	34	7	115	0	21	0	0

\* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.

Figure 1. Number of Confirmed\* Cases, by Disease, Reported to the Office of Epidemiology, August 2002 and August 2003



\* There is no "Confirmed Case" classification that has been defined for SARS. Therefore, the number of SARS cases reported to date represents only the number of "Suspect" or "Probable" cases.